

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 10-18.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

A new set of claims is presented to more clearly point out the invention.

In this regard, it is now clarified that the improvement in the present invention resides in the use of a plasticizer which is a radiation-sensitive, semi-crystalline (meth)acrylated polyester and, most preferably, a semi-crystalline methacrylated polyester, as disclosed on page 6, second full paragraph of the present specification. As a result of the use of such radiation-sensitive plasticizer, i.e. a semi-crystalline (meth)acrylated polyester, it is possible to melt the composition at a much lower temperature than conventional powder coating composition such as that of Hyde. In this regard, see page 2, first full paragraph of the present specification and new claims 19 and 20 which recite melting temperatures disclosed on page 14, first full paragraph..

Additional benefits from the use of such plasticizer are discussed on page 2, first full paragraph of the present specification.

With regard to the objection to the specification, the status of the parent application has been updated.

Turning to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, it is now clear that improvement is in the use of a plasticizer which is a semi-crystalline polyester containing (meth)acryloyl groups.

Turning to the rejections on prior art, claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyde (U.S. 5,565,246) in view of Moens et al. (WO 01/59021).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained in the first full paragraph on page 2 of the present specification, the present invention constitutes an improvement over the thermographic printing process of Hyde by employing a specific radiation-curable (meth)acrylated polyester powder composition which can be melted at a lower temperature, producing a raised print of improved color, heat-stability, etc.

Hyde fails to appreciate that such benefits can be achieved by the use of semi-crystalline (meth)acrylated polyester which functions as a plasticizer.

The rejection states that Moens discloses the presently recited composition including the semi-crystalline polyester. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Moens that such composition would be particularly suitable for use in the process of Hyde.

Moens discloses UV curable compositions as presently recited but nothing is disclosed or suggested regarding their beneficial use in a thermographic process.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejection on Hyde in view of Moens is untenable and should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of claims 5 and 6 over the above references in further view of Biller (US 5,789,039), Biller is relied on to teach that it is conventional to incorporate plasticizers into powder-coating compositions to lower the melting temperature thereof and improve flowability. However, Biller does not relate to thermographic processes and in any event, since Hyde teaches plasticizers (e.g. col. 9, lines 8 and 36) there is no reason for the art-skilled to look to Biller or even Moens for the use of plasticizers in the process of Hyde.

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that the rejection over Hyde in view of Moens and further in view of Biller is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

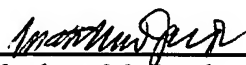
If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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